

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, IT, UR

SUBJECT: GROMYKO'S VISIT TO ITALY - DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS

REF: A. ROME 9473

B. MOEN-WENICK TELCON

1. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF GROMYKO'S HANDLING OF DISARMAMENT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR, A FARNESINA SOURCE READ TO US FROM THE MINISTRY'S OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING. HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

2. GROMYKO STARTED HIS PRESENTATION FROM THE POSITION THAT IF MEN CAN PRODUCE ARMAMENTS THEY ALSO HAVE THE ABILITY TO CONTROL THEIR PRODUCTION AND USE. ACCORDINGLY THE USSR DOES NOT TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF DISARMAMENT FROM A FATALISTIC VIEWPOINT.

3. ACCORDING TO GROMYKO THERE IS A NEED TO REACH AN INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL AGREEMENT ABOUT THE PREVENTION OF THE PRODUCTION OF

NEW TYPES OF ARMAMENTS. HE NOTED THAT BREZHNEV HAD MENTIONED THIS IN HIS SPEECH OF JUNE 13 AND THAT HIS SUGGESTION HAD RECEIVED GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESPONSES. GROMYKO NOTED THAT THIS PROPOSAL MEANT, AMONG OTHERS, NEW TYPES OF NUCLEAR DEVICES AND SAID THAT IS THIS TOPIC SHOULD BECOME THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE SOVIETS WOULD BE MORE PRECISE AS TO EXACTLY WHAT THEY MEAN. AT THE SAME TIME GROMYKO ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO REACH AGREEMENTS ON LIMITING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF ALREADY EXISTING TYPES OF ARMAMENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH A POTENTIAL FOR MASS DESTRUCTION.

4. GROMYKO THEN WENT ON TO URGE THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE "IN THE NEAR FUTURE." HE OBSERVED THAT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT SHARE THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF SOME STATES ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL. THE USSR DOES NOT EXPECT SUCH A CONFERENCE TO FIND IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS TO THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. HE PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING THREE AREAS LEND THEMSELVES TO DISCUSSION AT SUCH A CONFERENCE: REDUCTIONS OF ARMAMENTS, FREEZING THE LEVELS OF ARMAMENTS, AND REDUCTIONS OF MILITARY BUDGETS.

5. IN CONCLUDING HIS PRESENTATION GROMYKO CRITICIZED THOSE WHO SPEAK PUBLICLY IN FAVOR OF DETENTE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TALKING ABOUT THE NEED TO INCREASE MILITARY BUDGETS. HE SHARPLY ATTACKED AS NOT RESPONSIBLE AND ADVENTURIST THOSE WHO TALK OF THE USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN HIS VIEW, INDIVIDUALS WHO MAKE SUCH STATEMENTS PROCEED FROM THE FALSE PREMISE THAT THE USE OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS IS NECESSARY. VOLPE

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